

Application No.: 09/608890

Docket No.: CPI-004DVCP3CN

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-52. (Canceled)

53. (Currently Amended) A method for regulating apoptosis of a cell comprising contacting the cell with an agent that directly interacts with and modulates the activity of an MEKK 1 polypeptide set forth as SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, such that apoptosis of the cell is regulated, wherein the activity of the MEKK 1 polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of: being phosphorylated, phosphorylating a MEKK 1 polypeptide substrate, regulating the activity of a MEKK 1 polypeptide substrate, controlling the phosphorylation of a ~~MEKK~~ signal transduction protein downstream of said MEKK 1 polypeptide substrate, and regulating the activity of a ~~MEKK~~ signal transduction protein downstream of said MEKK 1 polypeptide substrate, wherein said signal transduction protein is selected from the group consisting of a mitogen activated protein kinase (MAPK), a Jun kinase (JNK), and a stress activated MAPK protein (SAPK).

54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, wherein said agent inhibits the ability of a regulatory domain of said ~~MEKK protein~~ MEKK 1 polypeptide to regulate the activity of a kinase domain of said ~~MEKK protein~~ MEKK 1 polypeptide, said regulatory domain comprising amino acid residues 1 through 408 of SEQ ID NO:2 and said kinase domain comprising about amino acid residues 409 through 672 of SEQ ID NO:2.

55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, wherein said agent is a peptide that binds to the regulatory domain of said ~~MEKK protein~~ MEKK 1 polypeptide, wherein said peptide inhibits the ability of said regulatory domain to regulate the activity of a kinase domain of said ~~MEKK protein~~ MEKK 1 polypeptide, said regulatory domain comprising amino acid residues 1 through 408 of SEQ ID NO:2 and said kinase domain comprising about amino acid residues 409 through 672 of SEQ ID NO:2.

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56. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 53, wherein said agent is a peptide that binds to the kinase domain of said ~~MEKK protein~~ MEKK 1 polypeptide, wherein said peptide inhibits the ability of said ~~MEKK protein~~ MEKK 1 polypeptide to be phosphorylated or to phosphorylate the substrate, said kinase domain comprising about amino acid residues 409 through 672 of SEQ ID NO:2.

57. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 53, wherein said cell is selected from the group consisting of a T cell, a B cell, a neutrophil, a macrophage, a basophil, a neuronal cell, an epidermal cell, a mast cell, a dendritic cell, a pluripotent stem cell and a fibroblast.

58. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 53, wherein said cell comprises a cell involved in a disease, said disease being selected from the group consisting of cancer, autoimmune diseases, allergic responses, graft-host rejection, inflammatory responses and neurological disorders.

59-65. **(Canceled)**

66. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 53 wherein the MEKK 1 polypeptide substrate is selected from the group consisting of MEK1, MEK2, JNKK1 and JNKK2.

67. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 53 wherein the ~~MEKK~~ signal transduction protein is selected from the group consisting of ERK1, ERK2, JNK1, JNK2 and p38/SAPK.

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